

Claims

1. A data communications device, comprising:
a receiver for receiving items of textual information,
a plurality of keys each associated with a respective plurality of different text characters, the keys being operable by the user to produce an ambiguous key sequence corresponding to an item of textual information,
a memory configuration to store different ones of said ambiguous key sequences and to associate with each thereof at least one item of textual information corresponding to the ambiguous key sequence,
a data processor operable in response to the user actuating the keys to produce one of the ambiguous key sequences, to retrieve the textual information associated therewith from the memory configuration to permit the user to disambiguate the key sequence,
wherein the receiver is coupled to the memory configuration, and is operable to identify, based on knowledge of the association of text characters to the plurality of keys, an ambiguous key sequence corresponding to an item of received textual information, and to store the item of received textual information in the memory configuration such that it is associated with the identified ambiguous key sequence.
2. A device according to claim 1, including a display device to display the text items retrieved by the processor so as to enable the key sequence to be disambiguated.
3. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising a mobile telephone handset.
4. A device according to any preceding claim, comprising a PDA.

5. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the received items of textual information are contained in a text message.

6. A device according to claim 5, wherein the text message is an SMS message or an MMS message.

7. A device according to claim 5, wherein the text message is an email message.

8. A device according to any preceding claim configured for composing and sending text messages.

9. A device according to claim 8 configured for composing and sending an SMS message or an MMS message.

10. A device according to claim 8 configured for composing and sending an e-mail.

11. A device according to any preceding claim wherein the items of textual information are individual words.

12. A mobile communications device comprising:
a memory containing a dictionary of stored words,
a predictive text editor coupled to the memory to enable prediction of words input by a user, and
a receiver for receiving text messages, characterised in that the receiver selectively stores words contained in the text messages in the memory for use by the predictive text editor.

13. A communications device according to claim 12, wherein the predictive text editor is a disambiguation text editor.

14.. A communications device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

15. A method of programming a communications device according to any preceding claim, comprising identifying an ambiguous key sequence corresponding to an item of received textual information, and storing an association between the identified ambiguous key sequence and the item of received textual information.

16. A method according to claim 15, including determining if the identified ambiguous key sequence is already stored, and if not, storing the identified ambiguous key sequence together with the association between the identified ambiguous key sequence and the item of received textual information.

17. A method of operating a communications device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings